



Eddyville Police Lt. Jaime Green visits Kenny Martin, an elderly gentleman in the community. Martin walks the neighborhood surrounding the police department nearly every day and has developed a strong rapport with Green and the other Eddyville officers.

PHOTOS BY JIM ROBERTSON

>> Green and Dixon have experienced cases where elderly individuals called to report a break in because their wallet was missing or believed someone or something was in their attic, when in reality they had simply misplaced their wallet or early stages of dementia caused them to believe someone was in the house.

"It's not that a crime has been committed, but if you will listen to them ... you will resolve the issue and their fear," Green said. "What they felt was a need or whatever reason made them call 911 or us, you will satisfy and meet their expectations."

Unfortunately, there are times when officers will have to make the difficult decision that an elderly person to whose home they are constantly making runs, may not be able to care for themselves any longer. Agencies in areas with high elderly populations usually already have a good working relationship with Adult Protective Services, and officers can refer those cases to them.

"They don't want to go to a nursing home or assisted living facility — they feel they can live in their home by themselves," Green explained. "We've had cases where we call Adult Protective Services and tell them, you are going to have to do something because they cannot live here."

In the 10 years Green has served in Eddyville, she has seen several residents who

▼ Benton Police Chief Tracy Watwood talks with Wilburn Sirles. Sirles says that the Benton Police Department has a great relationship with senior citizens in the community. "I wish every county in Kentucky had that," Sirles said.

